

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01565 261956Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5258

S E C R E T BONN 01565

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PASS TO DEFENSE FOR SECRETARY AND UNDER SECRETARY
OF THE ARMY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MPOL, MMOL, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: TANK GUN: US/FRG CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON

REFS: A) BONN 5218 DTG 261436Z JAN 78

B) STATE 20968 DTG 260141Z JAN 78

1. STATE SECRETARY SCHNELL OF THE GERMAN DEFENSE
MINISTRY TELEPHONED THE EMBASSY ON THE AFTERNOON OF
FEBRUARY 26 TO SAY THAT MINISTER LEBER HAD AGREED TO
SCHNELL'S RECOMMENDATION THAT MR. EBERHARD, HEAD OF
THE MINISTRY'S ARMAMENTS DIVISION, FLY TO WASHINGTON
ON JANUARY 27 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S.
SIDE ON THE TANK GUN QUESTION (REF A, PARA 3).

2. EBERHARD WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. ESCHENAUER,
HEAD OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS UNIT OF THE SUB-DIVISION
OF EBERHARD'S OFFICE DEALING WITH GUNS AND ARTILLERY,
AND BY DR. SAILER, DEPUTY TO MR. ESCHENAUER. THEY ARE
SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT DULLES AIRPORT ON PAN AM FLIGHT
107 FROM LONDON AT 1500 WASHINGTON TIME ON JANUARY 27.

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3. SCHNELL SAID THAT THE DIRECTOR OF RHEINMETALL
(HERR HOCKEL) WILL BE UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON.
HOWEVER, THE FIRM WILL SEND ITS DEPUTY DIRECTOR (DR.
FALKE) AND ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES (HERR BEER) TO
WASHINGTON ON PAN AM FLIGHT 067 FROM FRANKFURT,
ARRIVING DULLES AIRPORT AT 1600 HOURS WASHINGTON TIME
ON JANUARY 27.

4. IN THE EARLY EVENING BONN TIME, EBERHARD TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE WASHINGTON FOR THE RETURN FLIGHT TO EUROPE AT 1400 HOURS WASHINGTON TIME ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 28.

5. EBERHARD SAID HE THEREFORE WISHED TO GO DIRECTLY FROM DULLES AIRPORT TO THE PENTAGON ON JANUARY 27 AND START THE DISCUSSIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, E.G. AT 1630 HOURS LOCAL TIME. THIS WILL MEAN THAT FALKE AND BEER OF RHEINMETALL WILL ARRIVE AT THE DISCUSSIONS A BIT LATE, BUT EBERHARD SAW NO PROBLEM WITH THIS.

6. EBERHARD SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT FALKE AND BEER WILL ALSO LEAVE WASHINGTON FOR EUROPE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 28.

7. EBERHARD TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT HE WISHED TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE SHORT TIME AT HIS DISPOSAL IN WASHINGTON. HE AGREES WITH DR. LA BERGE'S SUGGESTION THAT THE DISCUSSIONS LAST UNTIL ABOUT 2000 HOURS ON JANUARY 27, TO BE FOLLOWED BY DINNER AND RECESS FOR THE EVENING. EBERHARD WOULD BE WILLING TO RENEW THE DISCUSSIONS EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, E.G. AT 0800 HOURS. THE DISCUSSIONS COULD THEN PROCEED UNTIL TIME FOR THE EBERHARD PARTY TO LEAVE FOR THE AIRPORT, I.E., AT LEAST
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UNTIL 1200 NOON.

8. THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS TOLD US THAT THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL MEET BOTH THE EBERHARD PARTY AND THE RHEINMETALL PARTY ON ARRIVAL AT DULLES AIRPORT AND HANDLE ALL THEIR TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS DURING THEIR STAY IN THE WASHINGTON AREA. DR. LA BERGE'S OFFICE MIGHT WISH TO CONFIRM THIS WITH THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, ARMS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, CAT-B, VISITS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN01565
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: PASS TO DEFENSE FOR SECRETARY AND UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N780002-0123
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780121/aaaaarkv.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 524909e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 BONN 5218
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3712517
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TANK GUN: US/FRG CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON
TAGS: MPOL, MMOL, OVIP, GE, US, NATO
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/524909e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014